Approved For Release 2003/07/31 : CIA-RDP80R01443R000200200003-6

NSC BRIEFING

25 March 1954

MILITARY SITUATION AT DIEN BIEN PHU

- I. Viet Minh preparing assault.
 - A. Moving trenches closer.
 - B. Some within 300 meters.
- II. French making air, some ground attacks.
 - A. 1,000 pound bombs on trenches.
 - B. But enemy repairs, digs new ones.
 - C. French patrolling between strongpoints.
 - 1. Destroyed one company on 22nd north of Isabelle.
- III. Defenses tightened in center.
 - A. Consolidation "Anne Marie" with "Huguette".
 - B. Galanted upset detailed enemy planning.

NSA review completed

Approved for Release 2003/07/31 : CIA-RDP80R01443R000200200003-6

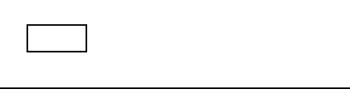
- C. About 7,000 miles barbed wire

 AT DIEN BIEN PHU

 strung -- distance from Saigon

 to Paris.
- IV. French think enemy may hit "Isabelle" first, then center.
 - A. Division 316, with element 304, to hit south, FRENCH THINK BY FRENCH TO
 - B. Division 308 expected attack center.
 - V. Navarre more optimistic.

25X1X6



- VI. On other hand, heavy Chinese shipments
 via Lai Chau.

 OPENED IN JANLARY
 - A. New route from Ban Leng takes strain off supply lines from east.
 - B. French say have killed 1,200 on road last week.

25X1

Approved For Release 2003/07/31 : CIA-RDP80R01443R000200200003-6

- C. Press reports of starving enemy conflict with estimated 60 days supplies, which we believe more likely.
- VII. Evacuation of French wounded hampered.
 - A. About 200 flown out; probably
 equal number remains. About
 Total
 1400 losses.

25X1

On 23 March Lt. Gambiez was killed when helicopter evacuating him was hit and crashed. He had been slightly wounded in the

knee the day before. He was only son of Gen.

Approved For Release 2003/07/31: CIA-RDP80R01443R000200200003-6 Gambiez, Navarre's Chief of Staff